

*School Closing Notifications*  
Concept Paper  
Presented to lowAccess Advisory Council  
*September 14, 2005*

Goal:

The goal of this project is to conveniently provide timely, accurate and personalized information about school closings to interested parties such as parents, school employees and the media.

Project Purpose:

The purpose of the project is to create a web-based system to accept and distribute notifications about various school closing events. The system will provide a single point of access for school administrators to initiate the notification process, and will allow anyone to subscribe to notifications on a school or district basis.

The initial user interfaces will be heavily customized for schools, allowing administrators to select from a list of reasons for closing, supply date and time parameters and other information that applies directly to school closings. However, the internal design will be flexible enough to accommodate its future use for other types of notifications such as Amber Alerts and Road Conditions.

Background:

During the winter parents, students and school employees expend a great deal of time and effort trying to determine if there is going to be school. Parents at work wonder if school will dismiss early due to pending weather, and everyone is taken by surprise when non-weather related events cause a school to dismiss early or to open late. This service will remove a great deal of the anxiety that results from not knowing. It is intended to provide a standard, consistent method of information delivery.

Request:

At this time, ITE is leading this project and is asking the board to fund the Planning Phase. A Planning phase must be completed before Implementation can begin. In the Planning phase, we will need to identify a community of interested parties and stakeholders to assist in creating a high-level vision of the system. After developing more detailed requirements and screen mockups, we will be able to create designs and plans for construction.

Cost Avoidance:

There is no direct cost avoidance anticipated with this project. The intent is to provide a free service to assist schools and the citizens of the state.

Interested Parties: Parties interested in this project include school administrators, parents and guardians of school-age children, the media and day care providers.

Some of the Recipients of this Service:

School administrators, Parents and guardians of school-age children, Media/news outlets, Public Safety personnel